

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

but, like the Emperor himself, he has duties
corresponding
to his He administers the family property,
nominally in the
of ail, but his children have no protection against his
poor
or wastefulness. They may not bring suit against their
parent
nor remonstrate with him, even on the score of
gaming, the chief
of Aonamite family property. All that a wife can do is
respect-
to ctll the mandarin's attention to the illegally
established gaming
her husband has the weakness to frequent. In the
final
however, the really important personages in the
family are
the who has just died, and the grandson who
will carry on
the cult. The father is but the living link between the
two : the mother,
t of perpetuating the family. Filial piety is the
rock upon
the Annamlte social edifice is reared* Sons owe
obedience, respect,
until they themselves become heads of their families:
t Is under male authority, first as a
daughter, then as
t or CQSXHbine.. Only as a mother has she
any real authority.
Their from the ancestral cult is the basis of this
unfavoured
in practice their status is higher than that designated
by distinctly above the position of Chinese
women. Certainly
are the hardest workers in an Annamite family and
the only
any commercial ability. The average Annamite's
miinea is uncomplicated by love — which is a theme of
to be confuted to written expression. A wife is a
to her husband or ^elder brother/' the classical ex-
of conjugal affection. Emotions are confined
prin-
ta are spoiled when they are
young,
is adolescents, and regarded with indifference when
A wife is her husband's inferior and she merits
tub she fiufctbity for their home,
and has pre-
the indispensable to insuring his

in the Lure **is** frowned upon Eke any other
folly
tfott **into** one's ife. Rice-fields are almost
the unique
A praredb expresses this domestic
• •

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the bosom of
out life the **my iacfeowt -risit or the**
profaning

flue ^^btoc j, **ofcibDOB** erf both parental
ttd As lilt ^^κ»% afiHi0rity is
balanced
tt